

IT'S NEWS TO ME by Herb Caen

Green Stamps By The Barrel

THESE FUELISH THINGS What's new in trading stamps? Bless you for asking. What's new is that Litton Industries has a pair of pilots who, whenever possible, refuel the company's Convair at Austin, Texas—where the airport gassers give Green Stamps. The pilots, Lyle Estelle and Jan Dietrich (she's one of the few women with a commercial license) are trying to get themselves a Volkswagen, which takes 100.00 stamps. And since they get 5,000 each time they refuel the plane, they have only a few more refuelings to go.

NOTES OF A NEWSNIK The beautiful Ahwahnee Hotel in Yosemite is finally getting a swimming pool—it'll be finished by the end of this month—and the key word in that sentence is "finally." The Ahwahnee management had been trying to get an OK on the project ever since 1948, and that's a record amount of red tape for anybody's Federal Govt. . . . Today's fascinating statistic: Four out of five doctors are for Goldwater. Nine out of 10 psychiatrists will vote for Johnson. . . . In the spinning of phonograph records, S. F. ranks second only to N. Y.—a non-startling statistic based on the number of needles sold annually. Boston is third, and L. A. where they still use cactus needles, isn't even in the running. . . . News item: "The Council for Tobacco Research, financed by the tobacco industry, says its studies have failed to show a direct link between smoking and lung cancer." Now THERE'S a surprise! . . . Dat ol' debbil flu—you like that kind of writing?—has felled William Saroyan in his local hideaway. . . . Having cut my thumb five times on flitop cans, I'm sure they're the most dangerous invention since the safety razor. . . . A reader, after listening to the "Top 40" hit records on radio, wonders with a shudder what the bottom 40 must sound like.

LEAFING THROUGH a copy of Pageant the other day, I ran across a piece titled "Why We Must Be First on the Moon," by Sen. Clinton Anderson, who predicts that "our satellite program will one day enable us to have long-range forecasts which will allow us to pick a sunny vacation period months in advance." That's worth 20 billion?

SEN. HUBERT HUMPHREY, tongue-in-cheek before the convention: "Pierre Salinger has been presiding over the Senate for several hours every day, and it's beginning to worry us. He's getting the Vice-Presidential look!" . . . Yes'm, people DO read the fine print. As of now we have on hand 47 letters from readers pointing out that the new toilet tissue called Aurora is mfd. by the American Can Company. Meanwhile, in North Vietnam. . . . I still say managing a baseball team has to be the easiest job in the world, no matter HOW hard Alvin Dark makes it look. . . . Add sightseers: Screenstar Jack Palance, who looks mean enough to steel pencils from a beggar, plunking dimes into the tin cups of three medics in one block. A nice gesture—but aren't three beggars in one block a bit much?

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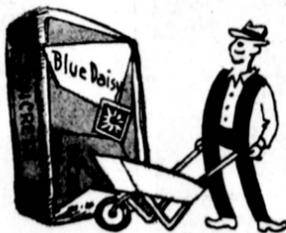


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